



For Immediate Release

Contact: Craig Orfield  
(202) 224-6770

**Tuesday, June 24, 2008**

***ENZI SAYS CONGRESS SHOULD SUPPORT EFFORTS TO COMBAT  
ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE, DEVELOP NEW ANTIBIOTICS***

**Washington, DC** –U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee), today said that Congress must tackle a key weakness in America’s health care system – the growing threat of antibiotic resistance and the failure to create new antibiotics to address this emerging need.

“We must meet the challenge that the growing threat of antibiotic resistance poses to our health care system,” Enzi said. “Congress must carefully consider how best to help doctors and researchers reduce levels of resistance and develop new antibiotics to fight infection and illness.”

In a prepared statement for today’s HELP Committee hearing titled, “Emergence of the Superbug: Antimicrobial Resistance in the U.S.,” Enzi said that Congress should consider expanding programs, like the Orphan Drug Act, that provide incentives to create new antibiotic treatments. “We simply are not creating antibiotics fast enough,” he added.

Enzi said that in working to find the appropriate federal response to the threat of antibiotic resistance, Congress should look at programs to help curb resistance by reducing the number of infections and educating patients about the risk of resistance.

“We must be careful not to micro-manage doctors or tell them how to practice medicine,” Enzi said. “However, we should promote programs – which can be as simple as reminding hospital workers to wash their hands or encouraging patients to follow their doctors’ instructions on their prescriptions – that will combat antibiotic resistance.”

####

